

Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 FEA-01 OES-06 IGA-02 JUSE-00

AID-05 /089 W

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R 022218Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2671

UNCLAS CARACAS 3835

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, VE

SUBJECT: OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM BRIBERY CASE

1. MEP DEPUTY SIUBERTO MARTINEZ, CHAIRMAN OF THE VENEZUELAN BICAMERAL CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING CHARGES THAT THE OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM COMPANY BRIBED GOV OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN VENEZUELAN SERVICE CONTRACTS, DELIVERED TO THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS HIS COMMITTEE'S "PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS." THESE CONCLUSIONS ARE THAT OCCIDENTAL DID ACT ILLEGALLY, BUT THAT THE PERSONS WHO RECEIVED BRIBES FROM OCCIDENTAL WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO INFLUENCE THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE GOV IN RESPECT TO OCCIDENTAL. THE COMMITTEE REPORT ALSO RECOMMENDS THAT THE GOV NOT PAY OCCIDENTAL ANY COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZATION OF ITS PROPERTIES IN VENEZUELA. THE REPORT CONCLUDES, HOWEVER, THAT THE COMMITTEE "DOES NOT HAVE UP TO THIS MOMENT ANY INDICATIONS LINKING THE DECLARATION OF THE COMMERCIAL STATUS OF BLOCK "E" (I.E., MAKING OCCIDENTAL ELIGIBLE FOR SUBSTANTIAL REIMBURSEMENT BY THE GOV FOR PART OF ITS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT) WITH THE CRIME OF PRESUMED BRIBERY WHICH IS BEING INVESTIGATED."

2. COMMENT: LITTLE HAS BEEN HEARD IN RECENT WEEKS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE, WHICH HAS BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERVIEWING WITNESSES BUT GENERATING LITTLE PUBLICITY.

HOWEVER, ON MARCH 22 AND AGAIN ON MARCH 31 DEPUTY
MARTINEZ'S HOME IN MARACAIBO WAS FIRED ON BY UNKNOWN
ASSAILANTS, AND MARTINEZ HAS PUBLICLY LINKED THESE
INCIDENTS, WHICH INJURED NO ONE, TO HIS INVESTIGATION OF
OCCIDENTAL.
SHLAUDEMAM

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 02 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Event:
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